FFA NEW HORIZONS®

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION | June 2007

She Can Definitely Can

Kathleen Braithwait tests the quality of jams and jellies (PG. 10)

The Grass Is Always Greener

Are you cut out for the turf industry?

12 IDEAS FOR FREE SUMMER FUN

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UMPER CROP.

THE TRUCK THAT'S CHANGING IT ALL.

TOYOTA TRUCKS TUNDRA

We welcome letters – any way you send them.

A few months ago, I received a letter from Tabby Walton, an FFA member in Millsboro, Del. She wrote, "I'm a member with the Sussex Central FFA Chapter, and I was just wondering why there's never anything in *FFA New Horizons* about us."

Tabby brings up an interesting question. And, it's one that I'm asked quite regularly. During the national FFA convention last October, I visited with many of you. As you can imagine, quite a few convention attendees echoed Tabby's question, "What can we do to get recognition in the magazine?"

So, this month I want to talk about letters – the kind with stamps and handwritten notes, official press releases, local newspaper clippings, and especially the e-mailed ones. We welcome each of them!

And with our new website – **ffanewhorizons.org** – it's easier than ever for you to submit your stories. Just click on **Tell Us** for a simple feedback form. Our team will read your story ideas and contact you for photos and more information.

Our stories are only as good as your suggestions, so send us your article ideas, chapter news, individual accomplishments, FFA Faces nominations, jokes and anything else you want to tell us. In fact, on page 5, you'll find a reader feedback page, the newest section in the magazine. After reading this month's issue, drop us a note to let us know what you think of the stories, photography, themes and even the magazine as a whole. You might just see your letter printed in an upcoming issue.

Remember to include these items when sending in your ideas:

- Include all contact information (name, address, phone number, e-mail, state and chapter)
- High-resolution, color photo (usually needs to be at least 1 MB)
- Complete information about the story

It's that simple. We look forward to reading your letters and learning about your chapters!

- Kim Newsom, managing editor

MEET OUR CONTRIBUTORS:

Ever wondered who receives your letters? It's *FFA New Horizons* editorial director Julie Woodard, who says she likes to read – and laugh at – the clever jokes. She adds that she hopes you'll keep them coming!

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The National FFA Organization is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

10 cover story

She Can Definitely Can
Kathleen Braithwait of Dayton, Ore., tests the quality of jams and jellies.

14

The ABCs of FFA
From SAE to EDGE, FFA speak can be tricky. Here's our guide for keeping them straight.

18

The Grass Is Always Greener
North Carolina member pursues a turf science career.

departments

Message Board 5
Tell us what you think.

Scrapbook 6
Learn from other FFA members.

FFA Faces 8
Win a Chevy T-shirt.

Careers 21
Take our turf grass quiz.

National Officer Q & A 22
Meet Vice President Jamie Cecil.

Your Money 24
Find free summer fun.

Healthy Lifestyles 26
Check out the facts about sun damage.

What's Hot 27
Read news from National FFA.

How To ... 28
Start a community service project.

What's On 30
Mark your calendars for "FFA Today!"

Back Talk 32
Learn about FFA alumna Robin Niehaus.

On the Cover
Kathleen Braithwait uses a refractometer to test a jam's sugar content.
Photo By Brian McCord

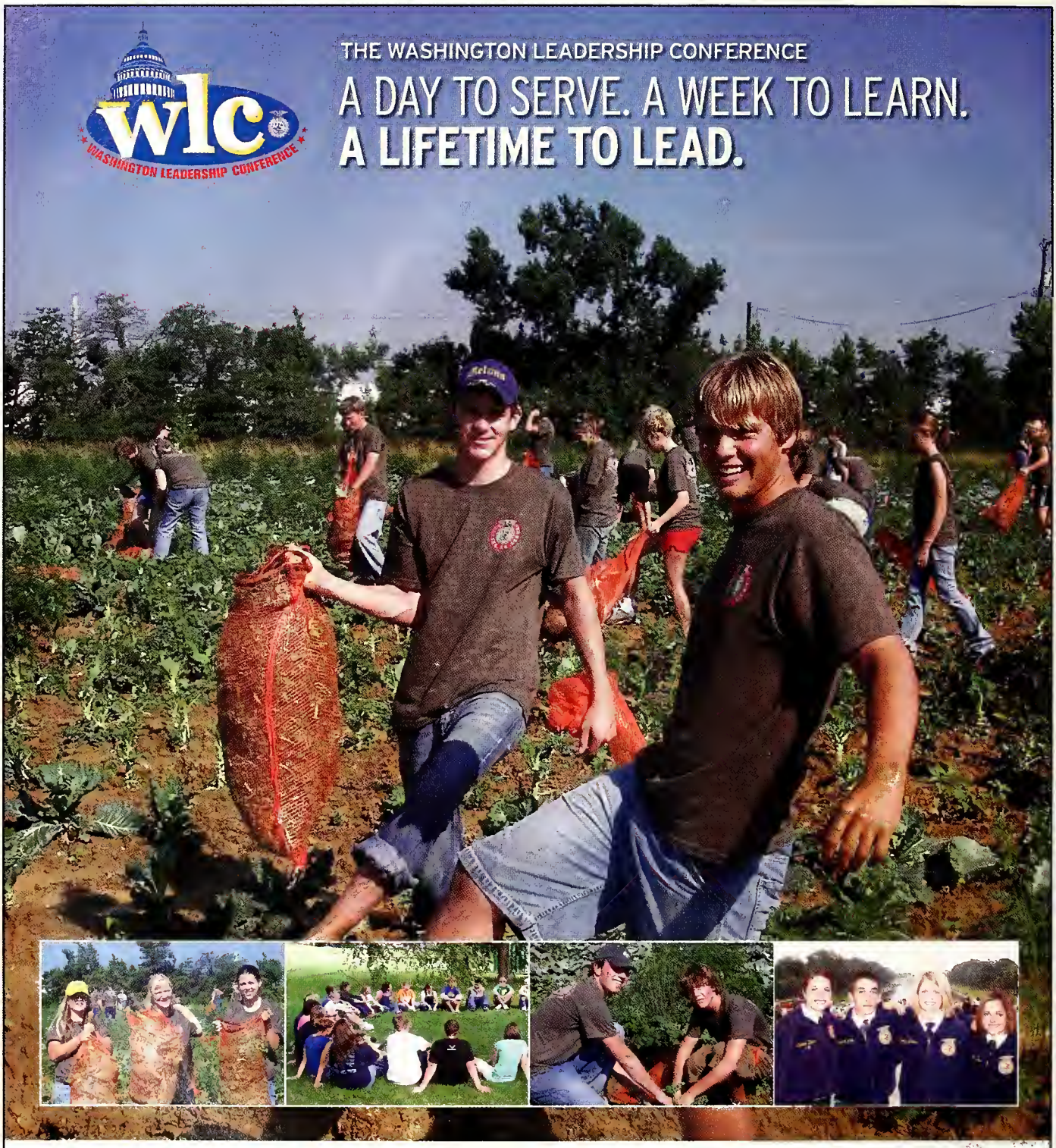
14

18

26

27

30



Timberland PRO is proud to sponsor the WLC service day. The experience provides members a hands on opportunity to put their leadership and service learning to practice not only in Washington D.C., but also in their local communities. We look forward to seeing you there.

To register, go to **www.ffa.org**

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. The Agricultural Education Mission: Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems. Diversity Statement: The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff as an equal opportunity employer.

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Photo Flashback

Want to relive your favorite national FFA convention memories? Click on ▶ Fun Stuff to see our convention slideshow, set to the "Blue Jackets, Gold Standards" convention song.

EDITOR'S BLOG

To find out what goes on behind the scenes of *FFA New Horizons*, check out ▶ The Buzz.

TELL US

Click on ▶ Tell Us to submit story ideas or send feedback about the magazine and website.

POLL

What is your favorite element of the FFA emblem?

EAR OF CORN

OWL

PLOW

EAGLE

RISING SUN

To vote, click on ▶ Fun Stuff. Answers will be posted in an upcoming issue.

ONLINE
ffanewhorizons.org

A NEW LOOK, A NEW READER

I want to compliment you and your staff on the new look and format for *FFA New Horizons*. My granddaughter is an FFA member in Florida. I had seen the magazine a year or so ago and thought it was a wonderful magazine, but I was really blown away when she showed me the February 2007 magazine.

Thank you, and keep up the sensational job with *FFA New Horizons*. I'll definitely keep reading.

Dr. Anita L. Miller
Deland, Fla.

AMERICA IS IN GOOD HANDS

I attended a national conference for colleges and universities at Purdue University during the time your national FFA convention was being held in Indianapolis. I was so impressed with the young people I met wearing their traditional blue and gold FFA jackets. If these young people represent the future of agriculture in America, we will be in good hands.

I salute all of these young people and their advisors around the country for all the positive things they represent. To me, they represent the best America has to offer the world.

Dr. E. Mark Bezzant
Utah Valley State College
Drem, Utah

PRAISE FOR FFA ADVISORS

I really enjoy the new magazine, and I love the cover – it's just two regular FFA members "doing their thing." I'm a Greenhand member, and I look forward to going to the national FFA convention this year.

Also, if you could, please give my agriculture teacher, Mr. Charles Kinsey, some credit for his work. If he can handle my class, he can handle anything!

Jake Gromer
Dexter, Mo.

Editor's note: We agree that FFA advisors like Mr. Kinsey deserve praise, which is why we've decided to recognize them in FFA New Horizons. *Send us a photo of your FFA advisor and a short description of what makes him or her great. We'll include the best ones in an upcoming FFA Faces article.*

Contact Us:

We want to know what you think. Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ Tell Us to submit your letters. Or, write to us at FFA New Horizons, P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Any submitted information (including photos) will not be returned, and letters may be edited for length or clarity.

Restoring History

Shane Blaes, a graduate of Cherryvale High School in Kansas, certainly has a knack for agricultural mechanics.

For his supervised agricultural experience program, Shane restored his grandfather's 1944 John Deere "B" tractor. Shane explains that his grandfather bought the tractor in 1960 and got some good use out of it. But then the tractor was parked in a lean-to for nearly 25 years. After 343 intense hours of labor, the tractor is nearly perfect.

Shane's hard work paid off. His project won grand champion at the Kansas State Fair and in the 2005 National Chevron Delo Tractor Restoration Contest.

24 areas

Career development events (CDEs) allow you to learn and test your knowledge in 24 areas, including public speaking, forestry and meat evaluation. Talk to your advisor about getting involved!

146

Each American farmer feeds more than 146 people around the world, according to the American Farm Bureau Federation. Now that's efficiency!

Just Joking

Why did the ram fall off a cliff?
He didn't see the "ewe" turn.
Skyler Sussen, Macon FFA, Mo.

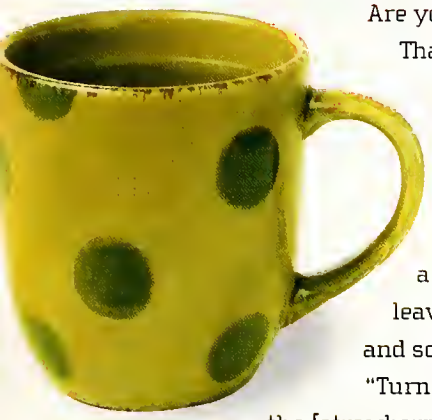
Who is the best-dressed creature in the ocean?
The swordfish. He's always looking sharp.
Victoria Register, Pierson-Taylor FFA, Fla.

What did the corn say when his plane took off?
My ears are popping.
John Schultz, Dyersburg FFA, Tenn.

ffanewhorizons.org

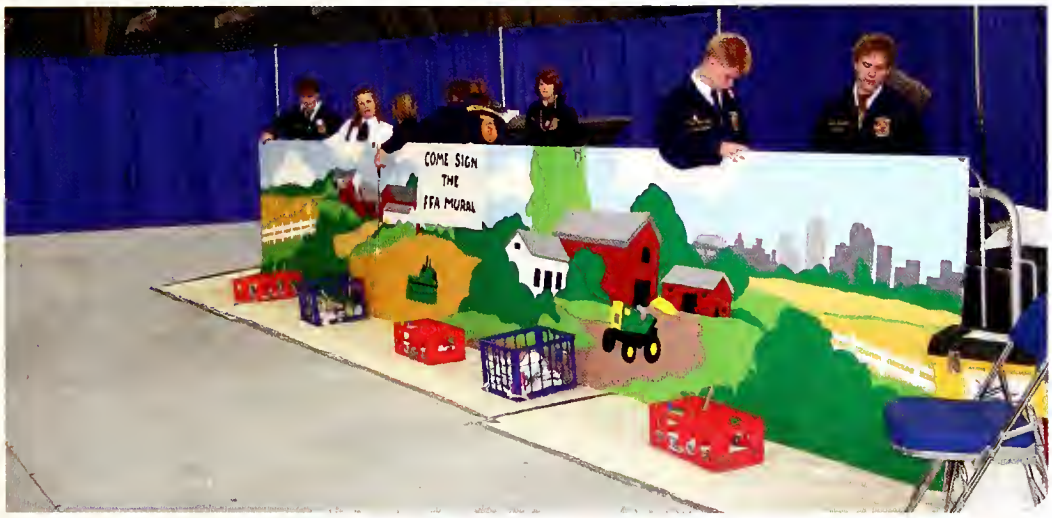
For more jokes, click on Fun Stuff.

Polly, Put the Nettle On



Are you brave enough to try stinging nettle tea?

That's the question posed by Palmer FFA members in Alaska. In 2006, the school gardens' switch to organic caused them to become overrun with two varieties of nettle, stinging and hemp. After advisor Don Berberich read about the medicinal qualities of nettle, he and his students picked the young nettle leaves, spread a thin mesh over their greenhouse tables and left the leaves to dry. The dried leaves were then crushed, bagged and sold at the South Anchorage Market – with much success. "Turns out the nettle tea actually has better flavor than the [strawberry- and raspberry-leaf teas] we tried," Berberich says.



Attendees at the 79th National FFA Convention helped Indianapolis artists create a mural to commemorate the event's first year in Indy. The 4-foot-tall mural stretches 24 feet in length and will hang in the FFA pavilion during the Indiana State Fair.

FYI

YOUR TURN

Keep us informed! This is your chance to be a part of *FFA New Horizons*. Send us a short article about your latest chapter activities, awards you've received or even your involvement outside FFA.

Be sure to include a high-quality color photo and your contact information.

Want an easy way to send your story? Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ Tell Us.

Or, send to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960
Indianapolis, IN 46268
newhorizons@ffa.org

Four talented Union FFA members in Oregon are finding **musical success** with their band, Colt.45. The band – made up of Colt Haney, A.J. Clark, Scott Kausler and Cooper Pierce – performs classic rock and original music at local events, FFA chapter banquets and the Oregon FFA convention. In fact, the band has received numerous talent awards at the state convention – including first in 2007.

Visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ State Scoop to read more.

Win a Chevrolet T-Shirt

Chevrolet, the sponsor of FFA Faces, will award a T-shirt to featured members. Nominate yourself or a fellow FFA member by sending us the following details about the nominee: name, grade, address, FFA and academic achievements, interests, and extracurricular activities. To be considered, submissions must include a high-quality color photo.

Send to:
FFA New Horizons
P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
Or e-mail to newhorizons@ffa.org

Casey Wray

KY

Chapter: Central Hardin FFA

A two-time recipient of the state FFA leadership award, Casey has served as chapter vice president and placed 14th in the national agricultural communications career development event (CDE). A recent high school graduate, Casey plans to serve a two-year mission for his church and will then major in political science at the University of Louisville.

Charis Beasler

OK

Chapter: Wellston FFA

This talented FFA member participates in livestock judging, public speaking and numerous community service projects. A high school senior, Charis exhibits lambs for her supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) and has won many showmanship and champion awards. Besides her FFA involvement, Charis is on the honor roll, plays softball and runs track.

Cody Hash

VA

Chapter: Marion Senior FFA

In his first year of FFA membership, Cody has already participated in two chapter fundraisers and won the animal science division in his school's science fair. He also runs on the cross-country and track teams, and on the weekends, Cody races dirt bikes on state and national levels. Cody also maintains all A's and is on the school honor roll.

Ashley Kill

OH

Chapter: Spencerville FFA

Through her FFA involvement, Ashley has developed a diverse SAE that includes swine, small grains, small animal production and home improvement. A high school junior, she serves as her chapter secretary and is a member of the parliamentary procedure team. Ashley is active in her church youth group, and she has also studied abroad in England, Ireland and Wales.

Jon Friar

WI

Chapter: Lancaster FFA

Well-rounded is a good way to describe this FFA member. A recent high school graduate, Jon just retired as chapter president, served on the student council and competed on three sports teams – qualifying for state in all three. He also helps with FFA community service projects and actively recruits new members. Jon will receive his state FFA degree this summer.

Mary Stevens

KS

Chapter: Wellington FFA

As part of her equine SAE, Mary has competed in barrel racing for four years with her palomino quarter horse, Sunny. The two have qualified for the National Youth World Championship twice and competed in the event once. Mary, a junior, also serves as co-chair for her chapter's equine program committee, where she helps facilitate the therapeutic riding program.

Cody Rushton

IN

Chapter: Hagerstown FFA

This recent high school graduate raises swine for his SAE and will be entering the livestock program at Black Hawk College in Kewanee, Ill., this fall. Cody has participated in the district agricultural sales CDE and placed fourth in the state small engines competition. A state FFA degree recipient, he served as co-reporter for his chapter this past year.

*Whichever comes first. See dealer for details. †Based on 3/4- and 1-ton vehicles in the 2007 GM Large Pickup segment. Excludes other GM vehicles. ©2007 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

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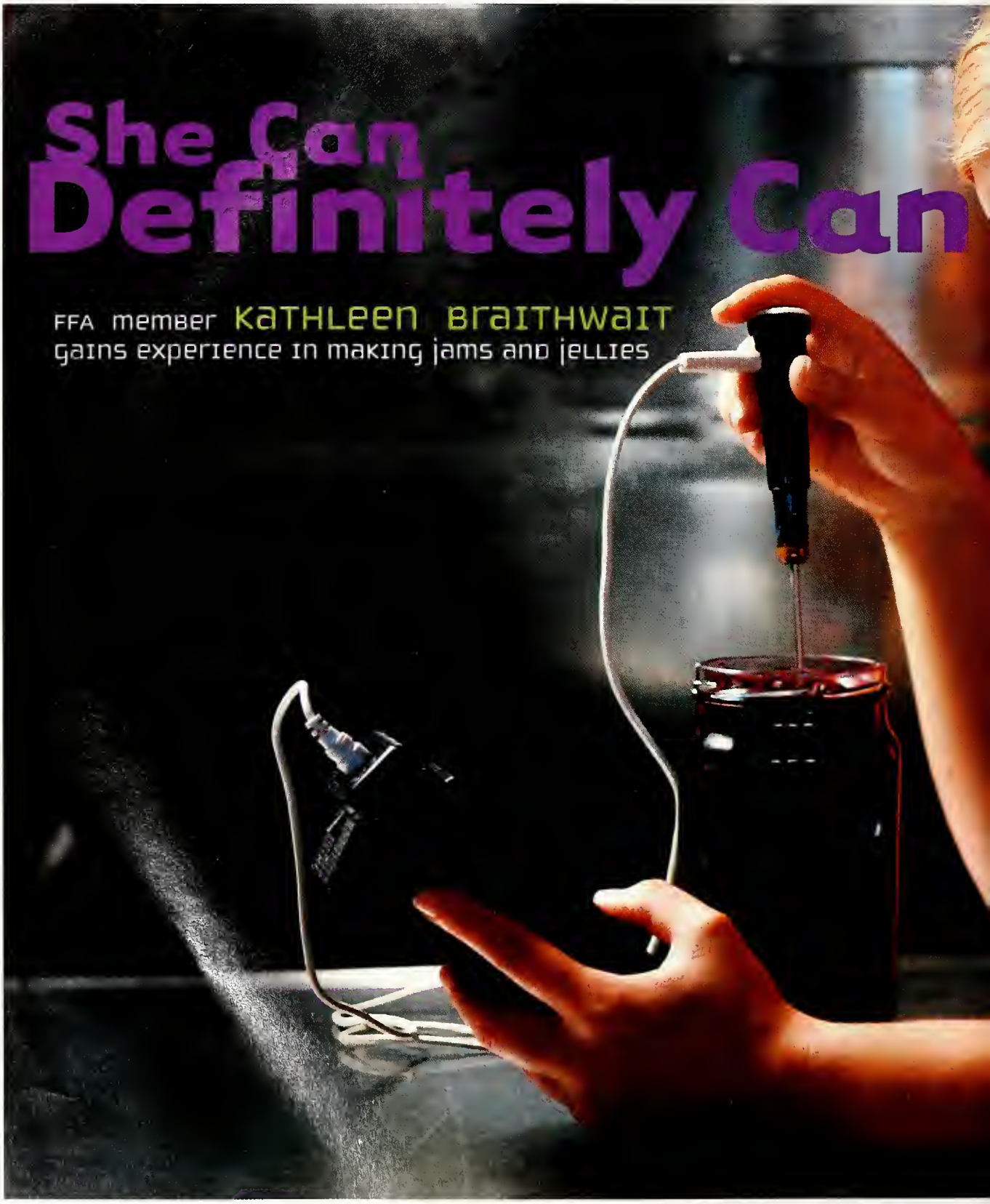
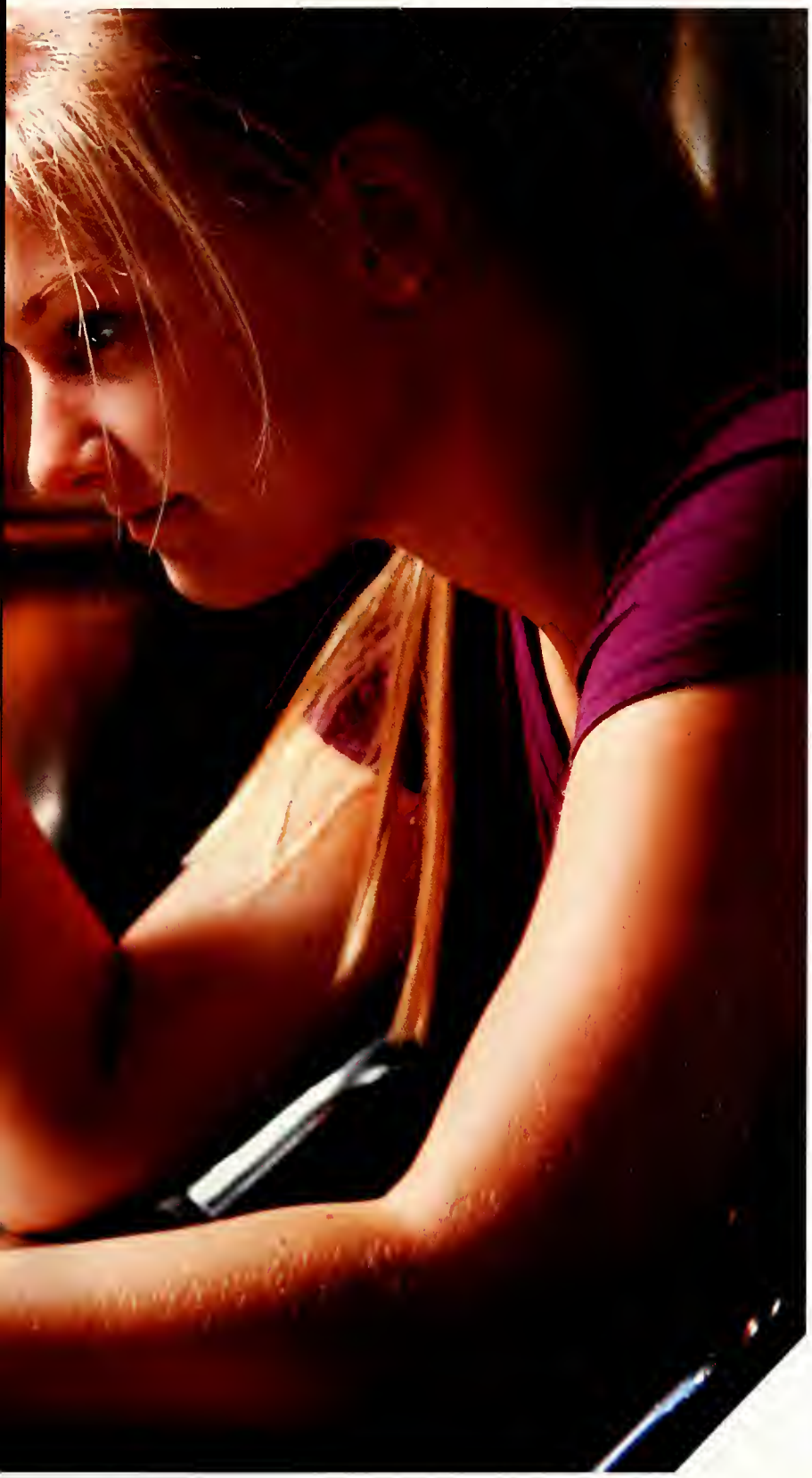
She Can Definitely Can

FFA member Kathleen Braithwait gains experience in making jams and jellies





Story by Jessica Mozo
Photography by Brian McCord

Kathleen Braithwait of Dayton, Ore., is still a junior in college, but she's already got a jump-start on her career. The 20-year-old Oregon State University student has been working for the Dundee Fruit Co. for four years.

Kathleen first learned about the company's products – canned fruits, preserves and conserves – while participating in an agricultural sales competition with her local FFA chapter in Dayton.

"My FFA advisor's wife is the manager at Dundee Fruit Co., and we used products from the cannery to 'sell' in the competition. So I knew about their products before I worked there," Kathleen says. "We also competed in the food science and technology career development event, and my team went to nationals."

CAREER NETWORKING

This connection to the fruit company paid off again when the company hired Kathleen, then a sophomore in high school. Mitch Coleman, her FFA advisor and agriculture teacher at Dayton High School, had noticed Kathleen's diligence in class and suggested that his wife, Ann, offer her a job.

"My wife is always looking for good kids to work, and it's a great opportunity for them because most canneries don't hire high school

CHECKING A JAM'S INTERNAL TEMPERATURE – ONE OF KATHLEEN'S JOBS – IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO THE CANNING PROCESS.

> "I like that I'm getting work experience at the cannery ... In the future, ***I'd like a job that involves communications and helping people.***"

Kathleen says her job at the Dundee Fruit Co. allows her to learn more about each step of processing high-quality food products.

students anymore," Coleman says. "We look for kids who are self-directed, stay on task and know the value of hard work."

Kathleen started her experience at Dundee by building boxes for products in the warehouse half the time and working on the production line the rest of the time.

"There are several different machines and tests I run on the line," she says. "We can lots of blueberries, and we sell many of them to Japan. We also can locally grown marionberries, boysenberries, pears, peaches and cherries, and we make jams and salsas."

A QUALITY PRODUCT

Nowadays, Kathleen handles quality control. Last year, she was trained to cap the products, check seals and check jars for vacuum.

Kathleen works for the company from May through September while she's not in school. In busy summer months, she's had to put in as many as 16 hours in one day.

"Our busiest month is always July, because it's blueberry season," Kathleen says. "You're working at 100 percent for so many hours, and you get frustrated, but you have to keep everyone upbeat so they are at

One of Kathleen's jobs is to accumulate jars on the production line, then sort and pack them in boxes.

their best performance. I'm a pretty happy person, so I stay positive most of the time."

Although Kathleen doesn't know if she'll make a career out of working at the Dundee Fruit Co., she's grateful to be getting the experience.

"It's a great summer job, and every year that I come back, I get a raise," she says. "I like that I'm getting work experience at the cannery. It kind of gives me a head start, I guess. In the future, I'd like a job that involves communications and helping people."

REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

Coleman says Kathleen's job "will help her later in life.

"Getting jobs early on gives "kids experience in a real workplace, and they see that they need to be on time, follow directions and take pride in their work," he says.

Coleman adds that FFA also presents students with leadership and community service opportunities.

"FFA teaches young people to work by themselves and as a team to accomplish a goal, and that helps them learn how to be successful in the workforce," he says. "Kathleen has learned a ton, and she's become a great person because of all the skills she's acquired.

"I encourage kids to take advantage of job shadows and internships, and not to worry so much about getting paid. The experience itself is invaluable for college and future employers."

Kathleen says getting involved is what's important.

"Go places, get experience, get to know people and do as much as you can while you're young. Getting involved is what it's all about," she says. "Even traveling to nationals is good because you can meet people from other places and see what they do."

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

Click on Features to read more about Dundee Fruit Co. and how you can get involved in a food science career.

The ABCs of FFA

Story by Kim Newsom
Photography by Greg Emens

A handy guide for deciphering
FFA abbreviations

In FFA, acronyms and abbreviations aren't just common – they are everywhere. Think about how many times you refer to a supervised agricultural experience program as SAE or the Washington Leadership Conference as simply WLC.

They have a purpose – saving space and breath when printing or saying long names. But for many non-members or people not associated with the FFA program, the endless supply of abbreviations can be frustrating. Don't worry – we've put together this handy guide of the most popular ones "to help you keep the FFA "alphabet soup" straight. And, be sure to share with those who might not know what a CDE is.

AAAE

{American Association for Agricultural Education}

Advocacy organization for the improvement of teaching and learning in agriculture and part of the Team Ag Ed program

ALD

{Advanced Leadership Development conference}

National FFA leadership and personal growth conference designed for high school juniors and seniors that focuses on careers

BLAST Off

{Building Leaders and Strong Teams of Officers}

Development program for state FFA officers with training in life management and presentation skills

CDE

{Career Development Event}

Competitions that test the abilities of individuals and teams in 24 major areas of agricultural instruction

EDGE

{Experiencing Discovery, Growth and Excellence}

FFA leadership conference designed to help all middle school members better understand themselves and their futures

ILSSO

{International Leadership Seminar for State Officers}

Global experience where current and former state FFA officers visit other countries to become more culturally aware

MaD

{Making a Difference}

A magazine published eight times each year and mailed to FFA advisors

MFE

{Made for Excellence}

Two-day personal development conference designed primarily for high school freshmen and sophomores

NAAE

{National Association of Agricultural Educators}

Association that represents agriculture teachers and educators on a national level

NLCSO

{National Leadership Conference for State Officers}

Conference for state FFA officer teams designed to build teamwork and presentation skills

NYFEA

{National Young Farmer Educational Association}

Official adult student organization for agricultural education and part of Team Ag Ed

ARE THERE MORE?

Many FFA chapters have created their own abbreviations to represent local, regional or even state programs. If you have a unique one that's not on our list, submit it at **ffanewhorizons.org**. Just click on ▶ **Tell Us** and be sure to include the story behind the abbreviation.

OVAE
(Office of Vocational and Adult Education)
Division within the U.S. Department of Education that includes agricultural education and FFA

PALS
(Partners in Active Learning Support)
Mentoring program that connects high school agriculture students with elementary youngsters who have special needs

PAS
(National Postsecondary Agricultural Student Organization)
Group that helps college agriculture students through employment experience programs, coursework and activities.

POA
(Program of Activities)
Chapter's plan for the year and the quality standards that the chapter's members should achieve

SAE
(Supervised Agricultural Experience)
Individual programs where FFA members gain hands-on experience and develop skills in agricultural career areas that interest them

SPC
(State Presidents' Conference)
Weeklong leadership conference for state FFA officers (two from each association) held annually in Washington, D.C., where the yearly national FFA convention delegate process begins

USDA
(United States Department of Agriculture)
Government agency that provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources and related issues

USDE
(United States Department of Education)
Government agency that promotes educational excellence and the future of agricultural education

WLC
(Washington Leadership Conference)
Conference held in Washington, D.C., that teaches members valuable skills in personal development, motivation, leadership, teamwork, citizenship and goal setting

Word UP!

ALSO FIND WORDS DOWN, ACROSS AND DIAGONALLY IN OUR FFA PUZZLE

R	S	O	L	T	O	E	Y	S	F	V	P	T	I	E	R
D	A	M	F	W	X	E	D	R	V	O	P	J	Z	J	Y
M	W	Z	J	Z	S	U	D	G	B	J	A	E	W	A	N
Y	Z	K	I	T	F	W	P	C	E	H	L	N	M	M	U
I	P	N	B	L	A	S	T	O	F	F	S	A	L	X	K
W	P	L	Z	S	Q	W	V	O	M	J	D	F	D	F	V
A	X	Y	E	W	D	A	C	C	P	A	O	F	M	H	N
J	G	A	Q	N	E	M	S	Y	W	X	I	T	T	R	G
R	S	D	J	Y	M	N	Y	Z	J	E	N	H	Q	Z	P
O	J	J	S	S	T	V	U	B	C	B	M	D	R	D	C
I	L	A	C	L	B	N	W	O	I	Z	T	F	T	X	A
U	F	D	M	C	I	W	F	J	O	O	K	G	U	F	P

BLAST OFF
CDE
EDGE
FFA
MAD
OVAE
PALS
SAE

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

For more FFA puzzles and games, click on Fun Stuff.

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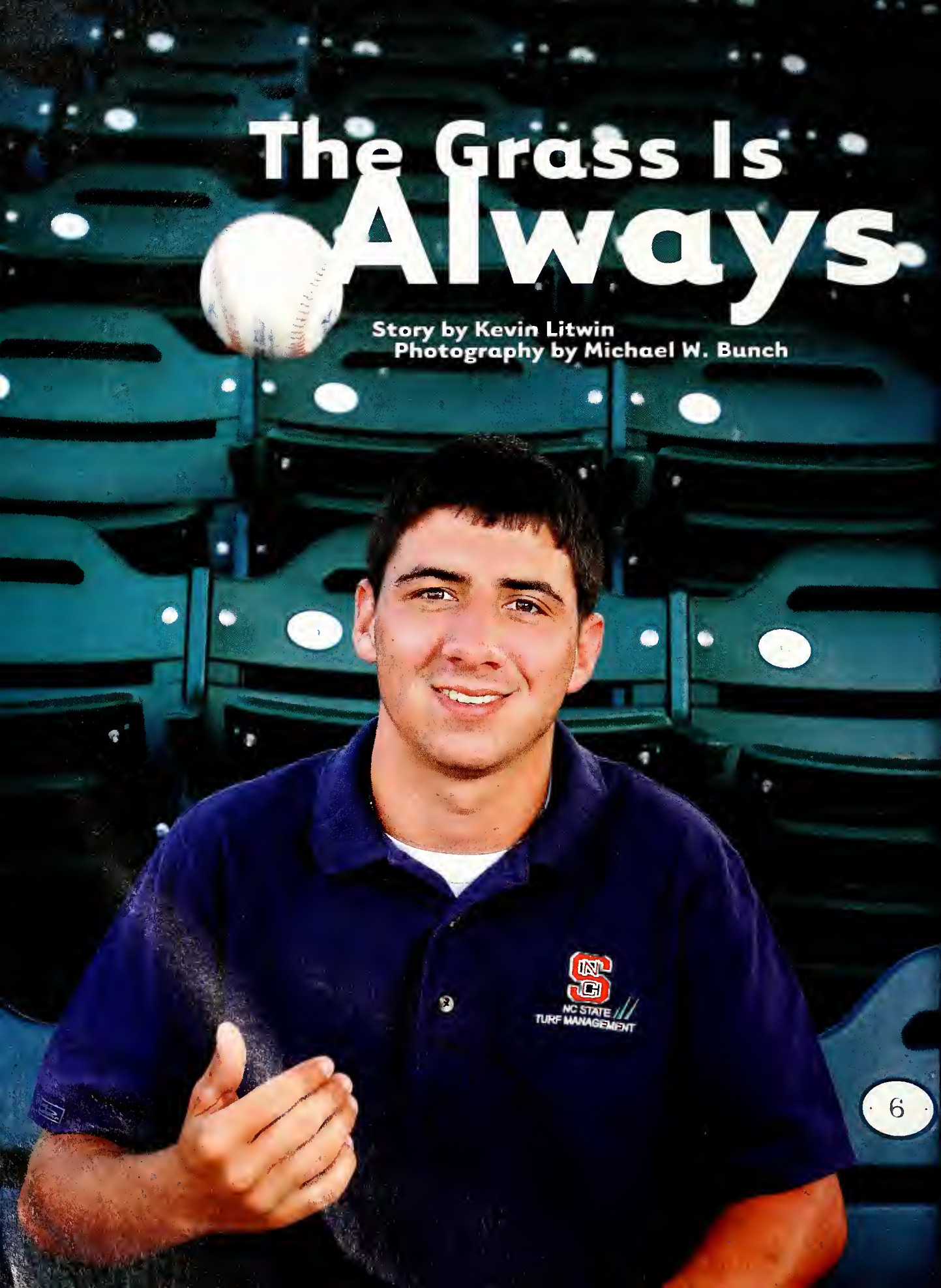
The Grass Is Always

Story by Kevin Litwin
Photography by Michael W. Bunch



Greener

College student Matthew Mooring pursues a turf science career

Taking care of a lawn – there's nothing to it, right? You mow it, fertilize it, pull a weed once in a while, water it on occasion and then leave it alone.

But that isn't the case for a head groundskeeper at a professional baseball stadium, or a superintendent at a top-flight golf course. For FFA member Matthew Mooring, either of those careers would be his dream job.

"Someday I would truly like to be superintendent at Carolina Country Club in Raleigh, N.C., which coincidentally is where I work right now as a part-time groundskeeper," says Matthew, 20, who attends North Carolina State University while he works at the country club. "But getting the Carolina Country Club job is a lofty goal. More likely, when I graduate from North Carolina State, I'll be an assistant superintendent at a course somewhere and stay there one or two years. Then if everything falls into place, I'd like to become a superintendent at a prestigious course – ideally in my home state of North Carolina."

Matthew, a four-year member of the North Lenoir FFA Chapter in La Grange, N.C., is now enrolled in the two-year Agricultural Institute at North Carolina State, where he is earning a degree in turf grass management.

"Running a top-notch golf course certainly isn't just seeding the grass and mowing it," he says. "I'm learning about pesticide utilization and safety, landscape design, irrigation installation, what grasses are best for what soils, grasses that grow in the shade and much more. Types of grass range from Bermuda to bluegrass to zoysia, and I have to know about every one of them. But I love all this stuff."

Robert Young is the current superintendent at Carolina Country Club, and Matthew credits him for helping to inspire his own strong work ethic.

"Bob Young has the most turf intelligence of anyone I know, and I'm learning so much simply by being part of his staff," Matthew says. "Bob gets to the course at 5 a.m. every day and doesn't leave until dark, which is what helps to make Carolina Country Club such an elite course and a pleasure for golfers to play. A skilled superintendent works some brutal hours, but that's what is needed to be at the top in this business. I'd be happy to take on such a challenge."

Matthew's love of the greens was perhaps first nurtured in 2000 when at age 14 he became batboy in his

The Right Course

Matthew's career goal is to work as a golf course superintendent, and his college studies, combined with multiple internships, should prepare him well. If you are interested in pursuing a turf management career, here are a few tips to get you started.

- Gain work experience at local golf courses, stadiums or even local sports fields.
- Keep a log of your experiences.
- Find a mentor – someone who has worked several years in the industry – and ask questions.
- Educate yourself by majoring in turf management science at a two- or four-year university.
- Read industry magazines and scholarly papers to learn about the newest technologies and information.

For even more career information, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ Features.

hometown for the Kinston (N.C.) Indians, a Class A professional baseball affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. The team plays their home games in Kinston at Grainger Stadium, which has earned several awards over the years for its landscaped beauty – thanks to head groundskeeper Tommy Walston.

"Matthew, after serving as bat-boy during the games, would then enjoy helping the grounds crew fix the field after games, and Tommy noticed his enthusiasm," says David Mooring, Matthew's father and agriculture teacher at North Lenoir High School. "When Matthew turned 16, Tommy then hired him to work on the grounds crew during the summer season. My son worked that job for three summers, helping to prepare the field before games and repair them once the games were over."

Matthew says he would arrive at Grainger Stadium at 4:30 p.m. on game day and would leave at 11 p.m. His duties included smoothing the dirt infield, chalking the foul lines and batter's boxes, pouring lime on the grass and packing the clay on the pitcher's mound so that the top of the mound was a league-regulation 10 inches high.

"A few times I left the ballpark at 2 a.m. on nights that had rain delays or extra-inning games," he says. "But that was all part of keeping Grainger Stadium one of the most beautiful fields in all of minor league baseball. It's true that we made the stadium look attractive, but an equally important goal was to make it safe for the ballplayers. We always accomplished both."

As an employee on the grounds crew, Matthew's responsibilities at the baseball stadium included rolling the tarp and watering the turf.

FFA PAVES THE WAY

As for his FFA experience at North Lenoir High School, Matthew says the lesson he values and appreciates most was learning leadership skills.

"Before FFA, I usually didn't speak to people unless they spoke to me first, and that won't be acceptable once I become a golf course superintendent or a baseball stadium head groundskeeper," he says. "FFA taught me how to get along with people, how to be more outgoing and how to strike up conversations with anyone. It also showed me that it's nice to be nice to everyone. Kindness is not only the right thing to do – it's good business."

He adds that FFA also taught him to be more organized.

"That asset will certainly help me once I'm running an entire groundskeeping operation," Matthew says. "FFA has really helped me, and I've always enjoyed being a part of the organization. Plus now I can say that I've been interviewed for the national FFA magazine. That's pretty cool."

GRASSES AND GRASS-LIKE PLANTS ARE:

A. Monocots

B. Dicots

C. Tricots

THIS SPORT'S TURF IS DESIGNED AS A PLATFORM FOR THE PLAYER, NOT FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE BALL:

A. Soccer

B. Baseball

C. Football

A TERM DESCRIBING THE DOWNWARD ENTRY OF WATER INTO THE SOIL IS:

A. Leaching

B. Infiltration

C. Percolation

BERMUDA, ZOYSIA AND BAHIA – ALL COMMONLY USED ON GOLF COURSES – ARE CONSIDERED:

A. Cool-season grasses

B. Warm-season grasses

SOIL COMPACTION IS A COMMON PROBLEM ON SPORTS FIELDS. WHAT PROCESS HELPS COMBAT THIS PROBLEM?

A. Desication

B. Plugging

C. Aeration

GRASS SPECIES ARE PRIMARILY SELECTED FOR USE ON SPORTS FIELDS BECAUSE OF:

A. Geography

B. Type of field

C. Both A and B

SINCE GOLFERS PLAY MOST OF THEIR SHOTS IN THESE AREAS, PRECISE MOWING IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO:

A. Greens

B. Fairways

ANSWERS: 1 A | 2 C | 3 B | 4 B | 5 C | 6 C | 7 A

FYI

A GROWING FIELD

Many people think turf grass management only happens at golf courses and baseball stadiums. But the industry is much more. You can work as a plant scientist to identify and propagate new grass species or enter a career in turf product sales. And many FFA members have lawn care or landscaping businesses for their supervised agricultural experience programs.

For links to more career ideas and turf grass industry information, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ Life and Learning.

FYI

JAMIE'S FAVORITES

Growing up on a fourth-generation family farm in Colorado, Jamie quickly learned to like agriculture, animals and FFA. Check out a few more of her "likes."

CDE: Extemporaneous speaking
Animal: Cow
Dessert: Chocolate cake
Movie: *The Little Mermaid*
Book: The Harry Potter series
Summer song: *Summertime* by Kenny Chesney

Jamie Cecil

National FFA Central Region Vice President

Q How did you usually spend your summers as a high school student?

A I attended a small school, with approximately 100 students kindergarten-12th grade, so I had the opportunity to be involved in many activities. I spent my busy summers attending volleyball and basketball camps, state FFA convention, Wyoming Grace Youth Camp, helping with my church's vacation Bible school and working with my family on our ranch. I spent the remaining free time with friends.

Q Does your FFA experience help you in your other extracurricular activities?

A Of course! One of the coolest skills I gained through my involvement in FFA was the ability to get to know new people. Whether I was at Honor Choir, a track meet or an FBLA contest, I was always ready to approach someone and able to learn from others' attributes. I also learned the importance of determination, pursuing my passions and working with others – skills used in every activity.

Q Why should FFA members stay involved even after high school?

A In FFA, we discover premier leadership, experience continual personal growth and jump on the right track for successful careers. This is valuable for all of us at any point in our FFA career. Many exciting opportunities exist for FFA members in college, including collegiate FFA chapters, a collegiate career fair at the national FFA convention, the National FFA Alumni and the agricultural ambassador program. College students can also serve as important mentors to younger FFA members while still learning and having fun.

Q How can individual FFA students help grow the national FFA membership?

A Every student can help by being the best FFA member they can be. Simply by becoming more involved in their local FFA chapter, students will discover more activities they enjoy. This involvement will show prospective FFA members just what they are missing. Consider this: If every chapter grew by just one member, national membership would increase by 7,242 members.

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

Click on **Features** to learn more about Jamie's FFA experiences.

RISK management

Congratulations

TO THE 2007 RISK MANAGEMENT ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS!

TEN FFA MEMBERS were selected as winners of the National FFA Risk Management Essay Contest. Each member, along with their advisor, traveled to Washington, D.C., May 2-6, where they met with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials during a special recognition ceremony. Additionally, each winner met with their congressional representatives to discuss the growing importance of risk management strategies in American agriculture. The Risk Management Essay Contest was sponsored by the USDA Risk Management Agency as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

TO READ THEIR ESSAYS AND LEARN HOW TO ENTER THE 2008 CONTEST, PLEASE VISIT HTTP://WWW.FFA.ORG/PROGRAMS/RISKMGT/INDEX.HTML

Rachael Arkfeld
Lourdes Central Catholic
FFA -Dunbar, NE

Andrew Bartlett
Merino FFA
Merino, CO

Tyler Elsner
Fort Atkinson FFA
Fort Atkinson, WI

Yance Farney
Stafford FFA
Stafford, KS

Katie Gillmore
Buhler FFA
Buhler, KS

Gabriel Holdwick
Harbor Beach FFA
Harbor Beach, MI

Emilie Kuhn
Rushville FFA
Rushville, IN

Heather Mekelburg
Platte Valley Academy FFA
Shelton, NE

Shelly Patton
Madison County FFA
Danielsville, GA

Ashley Willis
Kingfisher FFA
Kingfisher, OK

Find Fun for Free

Summer activities that don't break the bank

So you've made a budget and done a fairly good job of sticking to it. Now that summer vacation has you twiddling your thumbs looking for things to do, don't let overpriced movie tickets, expensive shopping trips and costly vacations ruin your financial goals.

No money doesn't have to mean no fun. Get creative this summer and think of ways to entertain yourself – without washing your budget down the drain.

Here are some of our ideas.

1. GO CAMPING. If there's not a lake or campground nearby, pitch a tent in your own back yard. Tell ghost stories, roast s'mores, and enjoy spending time with family or friends.

2. BE A LOCAL TOURIST. Visit local museums, natural wonders and attractions. Check to see if local zoos or amusement parks offer reduced or student rates on weekdays.

3. VISIT PUBLIC PARKS. Many parks offer walking and biking trails, basketball courts, and other recreational options.

4. PICK YOUR OWN PRODUCE. Visit pickyourown.org to find a farm near you, then set out to select the best sun-ripened berries, peaches or apples. Take a few friends along and see who can pick the most.

5. PLAY SPIELBERG. Get some friends together, borrow a video camera and make a movie about your town.

6. EAT SUMMER SWEETS. Grab some friends and make banana splits, or create your own concoction by mixing ice cream with fruit or crumbled candy bars. Feeling really ambitious? Make homemade ice cream with Grandpa's old-fashioned, hand-cranked freezer.

7. ORGANIZE AN OLYMPICS. Encourage friends from your neighborhood to form teams and spend a day at the park competing in wheelbarrow and sack races, a water balloon toss, egg races, etc.

8. MAKE A SCRAPBOOK. All you need is a binder, photos, colored paper, markers, scissors and glue. Topics might include your FFA experiences or a recent trip you took.

9. HOST A MOVIE NIGHT. Make invitations that resemble movie tickets, set up your den or living room like a theater, darken the room, show a newly released movie, and serve hot popcorn.

10. VOLUNTEER. It can actually be a lot of fun, and you'll feel good knowing you're helping somebody else.

11. FIND A NEW HOBBY. Gardening, painting, cooking, photography and learning to play a musical instrument are just a few ideas.

12. VISIT THE LIBRARY. Read a great book (or a complete series), check out videos and CDs, and check the library's activities calendar for events that might interest you.

– Jessica Mozo

ONLINE

ffanewhorizons.org

Click on Tell Us to submit your own favorite summer activities.

POP

on over to SmartEdgebyGMAC.com for vehicle financing tips, advice and a fun

QUIZ.

Buying your first car or truck is a big financial decision. To help you learn all about vehicle financing, head to SmartEdgebyGMAC.com. It's filled with helpful advice about building good credit, managing your money and understanding all your options.

WWW.SMARTEDGEBYGMAC.COM

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SmartEdge GMAC

Slather on the Sunscreen

FACTS TO KEEP YOUR SKIN AND HEALTH IN GOOD SHAPE THIS SUMMER

BY THE NUMBERS

SPF, or the sun protection factor, is a scale for rating the level of sunburn protection in sunscreen products. The higher the SPF, the more protection it gives. So before you buy, remember to check the number against this guide:

SPF 30 and above: high protection against sunburn

SPF 12-29: moderate protection

SPF 1-11: minimal protection

Source: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, stjude.org

You've heard Mom nag about putting on sunscreen, but if you're like most teens, you'd rather soak up the sun's rays than block them out. Sunbathing and outdoor activities are all the rage these days, but is our love for the sun actually a recipe for disaster?

Maybe.

According to the Skin Cancer Awareness Foundation, melanoma is the most common cancer among people 25 to 29 years old, and the number of skin cancer cases diagnosed annually is on the rise.

"Skin cancer used to be more common in the 60-and-above age group, but it's becoming more and more prevalent among younger people," says Elaine Sherwood, executive director of the Skin Cancer Awareness Foundation and a registered nurse. "I've seen a person as young as 13 years old diagnosed with melanoma, and the biggest reason is that youth are not protecting themselves. Bad sunburns while in youth and the use of tanning beds account for many of the skin cancer cases being diagnosed today."

THE FACTS

There are three types of skin cancer – basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. Though the first two have a 95 percent cure rate if detected and treated early, melanoma can spread to other organs – or even cause death.

Sherwood adds that tanning beds are also a major cause for concern.

"These tanning beds are like a microwave oven for skin cancer – you're cooking your skin like a hot dog on a grill," she says.

And tanning beds aren't the only culprit. Anybody who works outside has a high risk of sun damage to the skin and needs to be extra careful.

THE GOOD NEWS

You can be sun smart and lower the risk of damage to your skin. The simplest way to protect yourself is to use a minimum of SPF 15 sunscreen – and plenty of it.

"People used to think if we put on a little sunscreen, we've done our duty, but we're finding out that's not enough," Sherwood says. "You really need to slather it on, and reapply it every two hours. And don't forget to put sunscreen on your ears and the back of your neck."

Drinking water is also important while working outside to avoid dehydration and heatstroke. Experts advise drinking at least two to four cups of water for each hour of activity.

Now is the time to protect yourself from the sun because "skin cancer is the accumulation of sun damage over time," Sherwood says.

"Lots of youth think because they're young, skin cancer can't happen to them, but cancer doesn't care if you're young, old, rich or poor. You can't go back and change things that have already happened, but you can do your part to prevent skin cancer and live a healthy, productive life."

– Jessica Mozo

Your Vote:

Answer these for an upcoming What's Hot.

I get college and career information from:

- ❒ Guidance counselors/teachers
- ❒ Internet
- ❒ College contacts
- ❒ Other (please specify)

_____

If I had to describe FFA in one word, it would be:

_____

Send completed surveys to:
What's Hot, *FFA New Horizons*
P.O. Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268
Or, submit your answers online at
ffanewhorizons.org.

what's hot in FFA

National FFA Center Expands

Ever wonder where your chapter award supplies, clever FFA T-shirts and perfectly stitched FFA jackets come from? They are all considered part of the National FFA Organization's ever-growing Merchandise Operations Division. It has actually expanded so much that the merchandise service has outgrown its current location in the National FFA Center.

This June, the merchandising, licensing, and customer and distribution services teams are moving to the new 36,000-square-foot National FFA Merchandise Center, which is a few blocks south of the National FFA Center in Indianapolis. The move also allows for a $1.4 million expansion at the National FFA Center.

Be sure to stop by and see the new additions during the 2007 National FFA Convention in October.

what's hot in technology

A T-shirt Made of ... Corn?

It's difficult to imagine, but you may soon be wearing shirts made of corn. Engro LLC, an Indianapolis-based company, has introduced new apparel made entirely of corn. The technology utilizes Ingeo, a new fiber developed by Cargill and Dow Chemical, and representatives say its products are stronger, better insulating and less bulky than other shirt fibers. For more information about this new technology, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ The Buzz.

Saving Our Barns

Much like homes and buildings, barns and farmsteads are often historically important – with architectural elements characteristic of a certain era or environment. Saving and restoring these pieces of American history is why several history enthusiasts started the Our Barn Heritage program, based in Minnesota. Now in three states, the program coordinators are interested in expanding the program nationwide. To find out more about Our Barn Heritage and how your FFA chapter can help sponsor a local barn, visit ffanewhorizons.org and click on ▶ The Buzz.

Show That You Care

six steps to making a difference in your community

Why should you start a community service project? For Carl Ramsey of Concord, N.C., the answer is easy.

"Community service projects help bring new life to the community," says Carl, a high school senior and active FFA member at Northwest Cabarrus High School.

For his supervised agricultural experience program (SAE), which also doubled as an Eagle Scout project, the 17-year-old planned a service project close to his heart – a meditation garden at a local hospice house for residents to enjoy. Now, as he celebrates the completion of his three-month project, he shares his tips for starting and finishing a community service activity.

For his Eagle Scout project and FFA supervised agricultural experience program, Carl Ramsey created a meditation garden for a local hospice.

1. IDENTIFY THE NEED.

Before her death, Carl's grandmother had suggested building a garden in his grandfather's memory. Carl took her idea and combined it with his desire to help the hospice.

"We always wanted to pay them back for taking such good care of my grandfather," he says.

2. COME UP WITH A PLAN.

When his mother, Patti, read an article about the local hospice center's move to a new facility, Carl saw his chance, deciding to create a peaceful place where patients and families could spend time outdoors.

But Carl notes the importance of planning a feasible project: "If you really want to do one, make sure it's something you can carry out and finish," he advises.

3. SEEK APPROVAL.

Carl prepared a detailed draft for his initial meeting with Shirley McDowell, executive director of Hospice & Palliative Care of Cabarrus County.

"He was a very 'together' young man," McDowell says. The meeting helped Carl add to his plans, as he was able to find out the size of the area as well as learn more about what the hospice center wanted the garden to include.

4. GET OTHERS INVOLVED.

Carl's project to serve the community couldn't be done without help from the community itself. He asked for donations from gardening supply stores and church congregations, and some fellow Scouts volunteered their time toward the project.

Thanks to the generosity of others, the garden was well on its way to becoming a reality.

5. PROCEED WITH ACTION.

Carl and six Scout members spent 120 hours between them purchasing supplies and turning the plot of land into a path landscaped with flowers and shrubs, places to sit, and decorative items to enliven the area.

An engraved stone dedicates the garden to Carl's grandparents. Carl had $200 left over – even after writing thank-you notes to donors – which he gave to the hospice center.

6. ENJOY YOUR EFFORTS.

"From what I've heard, everyone enjoys it," Carl says. "It brings a little beauty to the place."

McDowell agrees, noting that the peacefulness and serenity of the garden make it a great spot for reflection. But the best indicator of the difference Carl made is remembering what it looked like before.

"It was basically an area of dead grass and a few flowers," Carl recalls. "Now there's a bench area, flowers, a bird feeder, a gazing ball and a statue of a pig."

The pig, he says, is for humor: "If someone's having a bad day, they can look at the pig and laugh."

– Jessy Yancey

FYI

PICK A PROJECT

Want to do community service for your SAE but don't know where to start? Follow Carl's lead and select a project that really means something to you.

Or, visit **ffanewhorizons.org** and click on ▶ **Life & Learning** for a list of potential service projects.

Love our photography?

Enter online to win a poster!

FFA New Horizons is proud to introduce a collection of four unique posters designed to inspire today's FFA members.

We will be giving away a different poster from the series every two weeks online at *ffanewhorizons.org* starting June 1 through July 26, 2007. Be sure to enter each contest separately during the designated time periods below.

Designs will be revealed with each new contest!

Contest #1: Enter June 1 — 14

Contest #2: Enter June 15 — 28

Contest #3: Enter June 29 — July 12

Contest #4: Enter July 13 — July 26

Enter online at *ffanewhorizons.org*

JOURNAL COMMUNICATIONS INC. CUSTOM MAGAZINE PUBLISHING

Official Rules:
No purchase necessary. Contest is open to all current members of the National FFA Organization. One prize will be awarded in each of four separate contests. Deadlines to enter: contest #1 – June 14, contest #2 – June 28, contest #3 – July 12, contest # 4 – July 26, 2007. Each contest must be entered separately. All entries must be submitted online at *ffanewhorizons.org*. One entry per FFA member, please. One winner for each contest will be selected by random drawing, and all decisions are final. Winners agree to have their name appear in an upcoming issue of *FFA New Horizons* magazine and/or any publicity associated with the contest.

web

The Best Food

If you need any fast facts about agriculture for an FFA speech or presentation, be sure to check out this great website, bestfoodnation.com.

There, you'll find the latest facts about the U.S. food supply, which is among the safest, most affordable and most abundant in the world.

Sponsored by the food and hospitality industries, the website tells the positive impact of American agriculture.

share

Shout It Out

Summer break is a perfect time for FFA recruitment. Talk to your friends – especially those enrolled in agricultural education for the first time – and encourage them to join FFA.

Need a great way to show them what FFA is all about? That's easy! Share your *FFA New Horizons*. Or, direct potential members to ffa.org or ffanewhorizons.org for more exciting FFA information.

tv

FFA Today

Mark your calendars to watch "FFA Today!" on June 25 and July 16, aired on RFD-TV. We will highlight state conventions, Washington Leadership Conference and much more. You don't want to miss an episode, so call your fellow members and watch the show as a group.

For more information, check out the "FFA Today!" link on ffa.org.

music

blogs

Summer Tunes

In our minds, summer is meant for rolling down the car windows and belting out your favorite songs.

Check out ffanewhorizons.org for a list of our favorite summer tunes – perfect for FFA camps, family vacations and quality time with your friends.

Click on ▶ Fun Stuff to see our list and don't forget to submit your own favorite songs for the list.

A Travel Tale

Did you know the National FFA Officers travel more than 100,000 miles during their service? And since their year is halfway over, they definitely have many stories to share.

Check out the officers' blogs on ffa.org to read about their experiences. Several of the officers even talk about FFA members they've met throughout the year. Could one be you?

To access the blogs, visit ffa.org and log on to myFFA. Then click on National Officer Blogs on your myFFA menu.

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Affinity Marketing in Print and Online

For information on reaching more than 500,000 FFA members, alumni, educators and supporters through *FFA New Horizons* and ffanewhorizons.org, contact Kimberly Johnson, advertising representative.

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Or, contact us through ffanewhorizons.org.

Robin Niehaus

Illinois alumna shares her FFA-influenced career path in her own words

Robin Niehaus, proud FFA alumna from Illinois PHOTO BY GREG EMENS

My job today could not be much closer to what I had dreamed – working in communications for an exciting agricultural business. This career choice stemmed from my FFA experiences, where I discovered a passion for communications.

Before joining the Hillsboro FFA Chapter in Illinois, I wanted to become a math professor or pharmacist, but as a high school student, I quickly grew passionate about FFA and the industry it represented. And as my interest in agriculture grew, so did my interest in telling the story of this industry. In fact, I served as FFA reporter at the chapter, section and state levels, and I was a national finalist in the FFA Agricultural Communications Proficiency. Later, I was fortunate to serve as the 2001-2002 national FFA secretary, and that experience furthered my interest in agricultural communications.

After graduating from Iowa State University, I became a business analyst with ABG, a consulting firm that helps agricultural businesses align their strategies and improve performance. When ABG decided to open a new position focused on marketing our growing business, I got the job, partially because of my previous experiences – especially my FFA ones.

In my current position, I work to promote ABG and create tools for our sales team.

While my abilities and network have grown since my FFA membership, I would likely not be at ABG without those experiences and relationships.

Today, I believe more than ever that FFA provides a platform for each of you to discover your own unique journey. Use your time in FFA to discover and develop your passion. Seek opportunities to grow and learn from other people, both peers and industry role models. And as you work diligently toward your goals, remember that your dream is most fulfilling when you make the most of each step along the way. – *Robin Niehaus*

You will possess a towering sense of honor.
You will develop
a relentless will to succeed.
You will become a part
of our nation's impenetrable shield.
If you have what it takes to make it.
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Hey FFA,
Congratulations! School's out and it's summer! Time to kickback, be safe, and above all have FUN! Hope to see you out on the road! Enjoy the new music!
The Big Dog Daddy...

TOBY KEITH

Former FFA member / Moore, OK Chapter

BIG DOG DADDY TOUR

6/21	Birmingham, AL	7/23	Harrington, DE	8/30	Mt. View, CA
6/22	Charlotte, NC	7/27	Seattle, WA	8/31	Irvine, CA
6/23	Raleigh, NC	7/28	Portland, OR	9/1	Stateline, NV
6/24	Grand Junction, CO	7/29	Boise, ID	9/2	Kelseyville, CA
6/29	St. Louis, MO	8/2	Denver, CO	9/6	Albuquerque, NM
6/30	Kansas City, KS	8/3	Salt Lake City, UT	9/7	Phoenix, AZ
7/6	Detroit, MI	8/4	Detroit Lakes, MN	9/8	Las Vegas, NV
7/7	Ft. Loramie, OH	8/6	Sturgis, SD	9/9	San Diego, CA
7/8	Milwaukee, WI	8/9	Atlanta, GA	9/12	Allegan, MI
7/13	Virginia Beach, VA	8/10	Tampa, FL	9/13	Cincinnati, OH
7/14	Bristow, VA (DC)	8/11	W. Palm Beach, FL	9/14	Indianapolis, IN
7/15	Holmdel, NJ	8/17	Scranton, PA	9/15	Chicago, IL
7/20	Sarnia Ontario, Canada	8/18	Pittsburgh, PA	9/21	Atlantic City, NJ
		8/23	Cleveland, OH	9/22	Boston, MA
7/21	Morristown, OH	8/24	Darien Lakes, NY	9/23	Hartford, CT
7/22	Philadelphia, PA	8/25	Saratoga Springs, NY		

*all dates subject to change

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